

CONTACT: Office of the Governor
Pete Smith (601) 359-3150 or (601) 720-8733
Rebekah Staples (601) 359-3150

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2005

**GOVERNOR BARBOUR NAMES ROBERTS
TO COURT OF APPEALS**

(Jackson, Mississippi)— Governor Haley Barbour today named veteran Circuit Judge Larry Roberts of Meridian to a seat on the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

Roberts, 56, will hold the District 3, Position 1 seat that was previously held by Judge Billy G. Bridges of Brandon, who has announced he will retire on December 31. The term expires in January 2009.

“The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee has worked hard to ensure that a qualified, conscientious, and dedicated person fills this important post,” Governor Barbour said. “Judge Roberts is a man of integrity and high moral character and I know he will be an asset to Mississippi’s judicial system.”

Roberts has served for 19 years as senior Circuit Judge for the 10th District, which includes Lauderdale, Wayne, Clarke, and Kemper Counties, since his initial appointment by former Governor Bill Allain. In 1978, he was elected Lauderdale County Court Judge, becoming the youngest person at that time elected to a trial bench of court of record in Mississippi.

Roberts is a member of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Judicial College, as well as the past chairman of both the Circuit Judges Conference and the County Court Judges Conference. His judicial experience also includes service as presiding judge of Supreme Court Complaints Tribunal for lawyer discipline and co-chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Uniform Criminal Rules.

A member of the American Judicature Society, Roberts holds membership in the State and County Bar Associations. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi and a juris doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Roberts is married to the former Sheila McCollum; they are the parents of two children, David and Bryan.

Governor Barbour's Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee, which reviews the qualifications of potential judicial appointees in accordance with Executive Order 914, found Roberts fully qualified to serve in this post.